

Appln. No. 10/028,049

Docket No. 12-1224

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-23 were submitted for examination and, in the aforementioned Office action, claims 1-3, 7, 12, 13, 13, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Tam (US 6,580,359), and claims 9, 10, 17 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Tam.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowability of claims 4-6, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 23, which were objected to as being dependent upon rejected claims but which were said to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By this amendment, allowable claims 4, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, 20 and 23 have been rewritten in independent form, rejected claims 1-3, 12, 13 and 19 have been cancelled, and the remaining rejected claims have been amended to depend from allowable claims. Therefore, the application as amended contains only allowable claims.

More specifically, the claims have been amended as follows:

Claims 1-3 have been cancelled.

Claim 4 now incorporates all the features of original claims 1-4.

Claim 5 still depends from claim 4 and claim 6 still depends from claim 5.

Claim 7 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 4.

Claim 8 now incorporates all the features of original claims 1, 7 and 8.

Claim 9 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 8.

Claim 10 still depends from claim 9.

Claim 11 now incorporates all the features of original claims 1 and 11.

Claims 12 and 13 have been cancelled.

Claim 14 now incorporates all the features of original claims 12-14.

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Claim 15 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 14.

Claim 16 now incorporates all the features of original claims 12 and 16.

Claim 17 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 16.

Claim 18 now incorporates all the features of original claims 12 and 18.

Claim 19 has been cancelled.

Claim 20 now incorporates all the features of original claims 19 and 20.


Claims 21 and 22 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 20.

Claim 23 now incorporates all the features of original claims 19 and 23.

Accordingly, seventeen claims (4-11, 14-18 and 20-23) are believed to be allowable without further substantive examination. Formal notification of allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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